

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 21st February 1903.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 16th February is glad that the present Amir of Afghanistan is gradually proving himself a very good ruler. Lately His Highness expressed a desire to have some of the Indian civil and criminal laws translated into the vernacular of his country, so that his people might be governed according to them. This, to be sure, is a piece of good work, and one that is, perhaps, far better than anything that the Shah may be doing.

The Amir contrasted with the Shah of Persia.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Feb. 16th, 1903.

2. To the same paper it appears that the object of the Helmund Commission is to wrest from Persia and Afghanistan a tract of land in order to make it over to the Khan of Beluchistan, which forms a part of the Indian Empire, so that the British Government may use it when occasion requires. If this be done, Persia, it appears, will be a great loser. The Amir may be awarded a money compensation if he raises an objection to the decision of the Commission. It is, however, to be hoped that the Commission will not decide anything without the consent of Persia and Afghanistan.

The Helmund Commission.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 3rd February complains that the local police constables at times commit oppression on the people who come to sell their goods at the *hât*, by taking from them things for which they do not pay. The police also take no notice of the swindlers who cheat the *hât* people by gambling.

The Purulia police

MANBHUM,
Feb. 3rd, 1903.

4. The same paper complains of the depredations of a tiger on the Panchkot hill in the Manbhum district. The beast has already killed a large number of cattle.

A tiger in the Manbhum district.

MANBHUM.

5. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 10th February, takes the Burdwan police to task for failing to trace the dacoity which was committed a month ago in the house of Babu Bimala Prasad Datta in the Bhaita village near the Saktigarh railway station in the Burdwan district. The gang, about 16 strong, would have been arrested on the spot had the local police or the village chankidars been capable of showing only half the courage which was displayed on the occasion by Bimala Babu and his younger brother, Ananta Ram Babu, both of whom fought single-handed with the whole gang, and were only over-powered by the superior number of the latter after some of them had been wounded and one of them actually carried to a distance by Ananta Ram Babu. Bimala Babu had to be removed to the local hospital, where he has had to stay for 20 long days. The dacoits left a *chadar* behind them, which is not like a *chadar* used by Bengalis. The inefficiency and worthlessness of the police is depriving village life of its security.

A dacoity in the Burdwan district.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Feb. 10th, 1903.

6. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 11th February says that while Babu Rasbihari Biswas, the District Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, was on leave, Mr. Halliday officiated for him. When it was time for Rasbihari Babu to return to duty, Mr. Foley, the District Magistrate, wrote to the Government that a European Police Superintendent was wanted in Burdwan in view of the coming installation of the Maharaja. The authorities failed to understand the force of Mr. Foley's argument. There was no fear of a rising in Burdwan. Why then send a European Superintendent there? However that might be, Government could not entirely refuse the prayer of their pet officer; and Mr. Halliday was appointed as Rasbihari Babu's assistant in Burdwan. Mr. Foley could not bear this. Was it proper for a white man to serve under a black man? Mr. Halliday came to Calcutta and had the whole arrangement altered. Rasbihari Babu was transferred to Faridpur and Mr. Halliday remained in Burdwan as District Superintendent. This Rasbihari Babu once wished to criminally prosecute a Sub-Inspector of Police, but Mr. Foley

Mr. Halliday versus Babu Rasbihari Biswas.

RANGALAYA,
Feb. 11th, 1903.

prevented him from doing it. Was Rasbihari Babu's transfer due to this offence on his part? Alas for colour!

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 11th, 1903.

7. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 11th February has heard with great alarm that the

A rumoured proposal to be made by the Police Commission.

Police Commission is contemplating a dangerous and unjustifiable reform with a view of removing the oppression which is incident to the levy of the chaukidari tax. The proposal which the Commission will, it is rumoured, make to Government for the purpose, will embrace the following four salient points:—

- (1) That poor people should be exempted from the chaukidari-tax, which ought to be borne by rich and well-to-do people alone. The writer says that the unreasonableness of this will be clear to every person when he sees that it means nothing, but that while only one section of villagers will maintain the chaukidar, the chaukidar will serve every villager. A more ridiculous proposal was never before made. If poor villagers are exempted from the chaukidari-tax, the chaukidar should be instructed not to guard their houses.
- (2) That even those people who own or possess lands in a village, but are not residents of that village, should pay chaukidari tax for that village. The writer says that this means the placing of nearly the whole burden of the chaukidari-tax on the shoulders of the land-owners. There are land-owners in Bengal like the Maharaja of Mymensingh, the Maharaja of Darbhanga, &c., who own lands in thousands of villages, for each of which they will have to pay chaukidari-tax.
- (3) That the chaukidari-tax should be imposed not only on homestead, but also on every description of land, such as orchard, paddy field, &c.
- (4) And finally that the panchayet should be empowered to realise from every villager liable to pay the tax, tax varying from Re. 1 to Rs. 10 per month. At present the panchayet cannot realise from a villager more than Re. 1 per month as chaukidari-tax.

The writer says that with the help of the rules embodied in (2) and (4), panchayets will be able to realise large sums of money from landowners. The Maharaja of Mymensingh owns lands in one thousand villages. Panchayets will therefore be able to realise from him Rs. 10,000 every month as chaukidari-tax. The Maharaja of Darbhanga owns lands in four times as many villages. He will therefore have to pay four times as much money as chaukidari-tax.

As matters stand at present, the chaukidar is not a servant of the villagers. Their properties he seldom guards, and their orders he never carries out. He is appointed by the District Magistrate, and he can be dismissed by him alone. He serves the police and does the errands of the police. He should therefore be maintained by Government. And if villagers are to maintain him, justice requires that he should be made their servant.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,

8. The same paper says that recently the Inspector and the Sub-Inspector of Excise at Diamond Harbour went to the Goatala *hat* in the Vishnupur village within the subdivision for the purpose of detecting contraband salt. There they asked a dealer in salt to show them his license. The man said that it was not with him at that time, but that he would soon get it. In spite of this they began to oppress him, with the result that a riot ensued. The Inspector reported to the Vishnupur thana that the mob had severely beaten the Sub-Inspector and that he had fortunately been able to make his escape. The case is under police investigation.

9. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th February says that in view of the return from leave of Babu Rasbihari Biswas, the District Superintendent of Police at Burdwan, Government ordered the transfer to Bankura of Mr. Halliday, who was officiating for him. But Mr. Foley, the District Magistrate of Burdwan, wrote to Government that

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 12th, 1903.

Mr. Halliday *versus* Babu Rasbihari Biswas, District Superintendent of Police, Burdwan.

a European Superintendent of Police was required at that time in Burdwan town owing to the approaching installation of the Maharaja of Burdwan. Government was obtuse enough not to understand Mr. Foley's intention, and ordered the appointment of Mr. Halliday as the Assistant Superintendent of Police at Burdwan. Good heavens! An Englishman to serve under a Bengali! Mr. Halliday came to Calcutta and saw the authorities; and the result was that Rasbihari Babu was transferred to Faridpur and Mr. Halliday was ordered to Burdwan to act as District Superintendent till the installation was over. Thus a District Superintendent of Police was humiliated for the offence of being a Bengali. Mr. Foley may be capable of anything, but it is a matter of great regret that Government helped him in this infamous act.

10. The same paper says that the *chaukidari-tax* is a source of oppression to villagers. The tax is levied on even half-starved people, and is often realised by the sale of the poor

The *chaukidari-tax*.

villagers' domestic utensils. The *chaukidar* is of no service to the villager, but is only a police servant of the Government. As the latter calls for the tune, it should pay the piper. No satisfactory answer can be expected from Government to the Hon'ble Maulavi Siraj-ul-Islam's proposed interpellation on the subject in the Bengal Legislative Council. The District Magistrates will undoubtedly say that villagers do not feel the least difficulty in paying the tax. It would have been far better if the Hon'ble Maulavi had asked for an enquiry by independent experts. It is certain that Government would not have consented to an enquiry, but some such question was needed in the case. Again, the Indian Association should renew its agitation on the subject of the *chaukidari tax* and send representatives to the villages in order to collect evidence of oppression committed in its realisation. Incidents so horrible will then come to light that Government will not be able to remain apathetic in the matter any longer.

11. The following correspondence appears in the same paper:—

A case of outrage in a Court compound.

Very serious revelations were made in a case in which the complainant was a woman, and which was tried by the District Magistrate of Sylhet on the 4th February last. The case for the complainant was this:—She had to appear sometime before in the Court to show cause why she had failed to appear in it when summoned as a witness in the preliminary inquiry in a case. In her defence she said that she had not appeared because some people had formed a conspiracy to carry her away by force when she would be on her way. When she was saying this, a man belonging to the opposite party attacked her in open Court, but the police constables who were present there prevented any mischief being done. When the Magistrate rose for the day she followed him to the Court compound and prayed him to help her, else, she said, her enemies would carry her away. At this time she was at a distance of nearly twelve feet from the Magistrate. Suddenly her enemies attacked her. She fell to the ground and was dragged by them in that posture. They then carried her in a cart to a village five miles from the place. The event was brought to the notice of the Magistrate, but he did nothing. The police was next informed, but no help came from that quarter too.

A witness for the prosecution, a *tehsildar*, said that some policemen had been present at the scene, but no one raised a helping hand in favour of the poor woman. Three days after this occurrence the Magistrate was petitioned for her deliverance from the custody of her enemies. The police found her in the house of one of the accused and brought her to Court. Six persons have been found guilty and punished in the case.

Should not the commission of the outrage have been prevented? If such a case can occur in a Court compound and within two hundred yards of a police-station, how it is possible for distant villagers to live in safety? The above case shows that there must be an important screw loose somewhere in the machinery of the administration of the district. The authorities should inquire into the case and prevent similar occurrences in future.

12. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 14th February says that seeing the recrudescence of dacoity in the Mymensingh district, Babu Rajendra Kumar Majumdar, Zamindar of Betagari in that district, has volunteered his

A zamindar offering to work as a detective.

SANJIVANI.

SANJIVANI.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 14th, 1903.

services to Government for the detection of dacoits, and it is hoped Government will accept his offer. Babu Rajendra Kumar's pluck has delighted the writer, but will Rajendra Babu find sufficient time to devote to the service of the Government after managing his zamindari? He does not, however, appear to be animated only by a desire to make a name for himself.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
Feb. 15th, 1903.

13. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 15th February says that though the press is tired of writing about dacoities in the Hooghly district, the authorities are taking no steps to put a stop to them. On the 7th February last there was a dacoity in the house of one Akhil Chandra Ghosh of Madhavpur within the jurisdiction of the Singur thana. The party consisted of about half a dozen men, who carried away property of considerable value. One of the men has been arrested, but the rest are still at large.

PRATIVASI,
Feb. 16th, 1903.

14. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th February quotes from the *Sanjivani* newspaper the paragraph which has been reported in paragraph 11 of this report.

BANKURA
DARPAN,
Feb. 16th, 1903.

15. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th February says that there does not exist a tax more oppressive than the chaukidari-tax. There is a lot of evidence that chaukidars in the Bankura district do not guard the properties of villagers. The chaukidar is not only not the servant of the villagers, but he is the villagers' master, because he can attach the villagers' movables in order to realise his pay from them. The chaukidar should be made the servant of the villagers, or he should be maintained by the Government.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
Feb. 16th, 1903.

16. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th February says that a most daring dacoity was committed on the 14th January last, in village Rampur, thana Bhagwanpur, district Midnapore. The owner of the house in which it was committed was away from home and the dacoits, taking advantage of his absence, entered into the house, beat his old mother to death and his wife so severely as to render her condition precarious, and then took away about a thousand rupees in cash and property of considerable value. The police has as yet failed to trace the dacoits.

(b)--Working of the Courts.

SUHRID,
Feb. 3rd, 1903.

17. The *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 3rd February says that Kali Kumar De, a peon of the Judge's Court, Noakhali, made a false return on a summons and then surreptitiously altered it. The blame of the alteration rests not only with the peon, but also with the clerk who was in charge of the record of the case, because the peon could not have tampered with the return without the help of the latter. It is difficult to see why the District Judge, Mr. Dwaraka Nath Mitter, is not taking any notice of the conduct of the peon and the clerk.

SUHRID.

18. The same paper complains that though the number of Deputy Magistrates in the Noakhali sadar is the same as before, the Courts are held till 10 or 11 P.M., up to which hour they were never before held. Upendra Babu, the Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Collectorate, is a very dilatory officer. He keeps the amla waiting for a mere signature and not unoften tells them to come at some other time. People who have to pay money into the Collectorate also suffer the greatest inconvenience.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 12th, 1903.

19. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th February says that when Mr. Hyde was appointed Administrator-General, Bengal, it was announced that a Deputy Administrator-General would be appointed under him when the Official Assignee's work came to his hand. But it now appears that a Deputy had already been appointed at that time. Mr. G. C. Ray is practically doing the Administrator-General's work. In this state of things a very able man should fill the post of the Deputy, who is required to be a Barrister or a Solicitor-at-Law. In Madras the Deputy Administrator-General is a native pleader. Could not Bengal also supply an able native lawyer for the Deputy

Administrator-Generalship here? It is not fair that all highly-paid Government posts should be made the monopoly of whitemen. Again, it would not be bad to appoint an expert in zamindari affairs as the Deputy Administrator-General. In short, if Lord Curzon and the Home Secretary do not carry out the recommendations of the Commission which was appointed to examine the working of the Administrator-General's office, no improvement will ever be effected in it.

20. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 12th February says that the District Judge of Sylhet has, after going through the records of the cooly case, which was noticed in a previous issue (see Report on Native Papers for the 7th February, 1903, paragraph 14), come to the conclusion that the Committing Magistrate made no enquiry before committing it to the sessions. The Judge has sent up the records to the High Court for cancelment of the Magistrate's committal, with the further request that if the Hon'ble Court should consider a reinvestigation necessary, it should be entrusted to some other Magistrate. The Committing Magistrate safely disregarded the law when he sent a number of poor coolies to *hajat* and committed their case to the sessions without making any enquiry into it. Such judicial vagary becomes no other country except India. Unable to give securities the poor coolies are rotting in *hajat*. In the face of such miscarriages of justice Lord Curzon has had the boldness to compare British rule in India with the great Asoka's reign and affirm the superiority of the former to the latter. His Excellency is requested to appoint a Commission to enquire into the judicial vagaries of Indian Magistrates.

The committing Magistrate in an Assam cooly case.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 12th, 1903.

21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th February writes as follows:—

The Munsifs and the administration of Civil Justice.

In Sir Charles Elliott's time Babu Surendra Nath Banerji asked Government from his place in the Bengal Council to sanction an increase in the number of Munsifs in these Provinces as to the necessity of which the people were unanimous. But the state of the provincial finances was at the time very unsatisfactory, and nobody could reasonably expect that the Local Government would sanction any proposal having for its object the improvement of the internal administration of the country, which was likely to cause increased expenditure. Not only did Government not sanction such inconvenient proposals, but invariably denied their necessity and shelved them. Babu Surendra Nath's proposal received no better treatment at its hands. He was told that the number of Munsifs was sufficient, and as it had been increased in accordance with the increase in the number of suits, no inconvenience was being felt; suits were being duly disposed of, and no arrears were left. It was, however, clearly shown by writers in the press, from facts and figures taken from official reports, that the number of Munsifs had not been increased proportionately to the increase that had taken place in the number of suits. As to the other point, namely, that suits had been duly and satisfactorily disposed of, even if it were conceded for argument's sake, it would not disprove the necessity of increasing the number of Munsifs. In judging of judicial work the number of suits disposed of is not the one or the principal point that should be taken into consideration. If justice is to be made more accessible to those who seek it and the administration of justice more popular, you must consider not only the number of cases decided, but also the nature and quality of the decisions given. How have the cases been decided? Have the decisions given satisfaction to the public? These are really the questions to be discussed and decided, and on their decision ought to be based that of the question as to whether or no the number of Munsifs should be increased. As to how suits are disposed of by the Munsifs, a Beguserai correspondent writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Feb. 13th, 1903.

It is true that in the Quarterly Returns the work done by the Munsifs is praised, but the way suits are disposed of is such as cannot but cause surprise. In suits which remain undisposed of for a long time, great pressure is put on parties and their pleaders and mukhtars to arrive at an amicable settlement. This is done not because the Munsifs are partial to that method of settlement, but because they are anxious to make a show of their ability and industry and also because suits cannot otherwise be disposed of and old suits go on increasing. They have not the time to decide cases after taking evidence, &c.,

in accordance with the prescribed procedure, while if they are left undecided, Government is displeased. While on the one hand pressure is put on the litigants to arrive at an amicable settlement, the fear lest an increase in the number of such settlements should come to the notice of the District Judge and the High Court, leads at least some Munsifs, on the other, to compel the parties making such settlements to file a petition in the Court stating that though they have made a compromise in accordance with conditions set forth in writing, still the Court may be pleased to decide the question of costs. Whilst filing this petition they verbally inform the Court how the cost is to be fixed and awarded. The object of the Munsifs in getting the parties to make such a petition is to make the suit a contested one (though involving the one and only question of cost), for it is only the decision of contested cases that enables such officers to earn a good name for themselves. Another trick resorted to by some Munsifs to show a clear file may thus be described: when they fail to induce the parties to a suit to come to a compromise, they make the latter absent themselves from Court, although their witnesses may be present. If both parties are absent the suit is struck off under section 98 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the plaintiff being, at the same time, asked to apply for permission to bring a fresh suit under section 99 of the same Code. If he does not do so and there is an application by the defendant praying to be allowed more time, the application is returned to the latter and he is compelled to be absent, and he being absent the suit is decided *ex parte*, the defence being, at the same time, told to proceed under section 108. If, for special reasons, an application is made on behalf of the plaintiff praying to be allowed more time, it is returned and the suit is struck off under section 98 on the ground that there is no one to conduct it. If the costs of attendance for the witnesses of both parties have been deposited, the money is returned and the suit struck off under the same section.

The truth of the foregoing statements will, in some measure, be perceived from a study of the number and result of the cases under sections 99 and 108 for the year 1901-1902. The District Judge of Bhagalpur had serious misgivings regarding the returns of such cases for that year submitted for his district, and in a circular issued by him to the local Munsifs, he wrote, with reference to the increase in the number of cases of this description and to the decisions passed in them, that "either there is a serious miscarriage of justice or a gross irregularity in the Process-serving Department."

There was a certain Munsif who, as soon as he came to Court, called old cases for hearing and decided them *ex parte* or otherwise according as circumstances might suggest. In order that the parties might not appear when called, he, from time to time, made it a point to attend Court earlier than usual, and had the cases for the day called on for hearing at once in disregard of the established practice. An affidavit to that effect was once made against the Munsif Babu Bhagabati Charan Mitra. There are some Munsifs who, in suits for arrears of rent, ask the defendant's pleader to waive all claims, if any, on his client's part to any payment that may have been made by him and plainly say that "even if evidence be given any plea of payment will not be entertained, and it is therefore of no use to waste the time of the Court by raising such pleas."

One can have no confidence in the lowest Civil Courts in the country if all this is to be believed. While suits are disposed of in this improper manner, the administration of justice can never be popular, nor can public confidence in the Courts remain undiminished, although the Munsifs may be honoured by Government and the necessity of increasing their number may be denied by it. The true state of things may, of course, remain unrevealed, but in the interest of good administration, it is extremely necessary that the people's confidence in and respect for the Civil Courts should remain unimpaired.

BIKAS,
Feb. 15th, 1903.

The Deputy Magistrate of
Patuakhali, Backergunge.

become a habit with him.

BIKAS.

23. The same paper is
A Deputy Magistrate of Barisal.

22. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 15th February says that the conduct of the Deputy Magistrate of Patuakhali in the Backergunge district is trying the patience of the local people. Doing Court work till late at night has become a habit with him. The District Magistrate is requested to look to this. The District Magistrate is sorry to hear that recently Babu Prafulla Sankar Sen, a Deputy Magistrate of Barisal, dealt very harshly with the manager of a zamindar without

any provocation. Prafulla Babu is a young officer and should try to maintain the honour of his position.

(d)—Education.

24. In view of the coming meeting of the Senate of the Calcutta University to consider the report of the Universities Commission, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th February says that once when an important question was being hotly discussed in the Senate, Mr. Pedler made an attempt to compel the votes of those members who belonged to the Education Department. But, in spite of Mr. Pedler's request, some of those members stayed away on the voting day. In anger and bitterness Mr. Pedler reported to the Government against them, and they were asked to explain their conduct. This took place in Sir John Woodburn's time. One of the members reported against boldly told Sir John that in the Education Department he was Mr. Pedler's subordinate, but in the University he was as free as Mr. Pedler himself. Sir John was satisfied and the matter ended. The writer says that matters will become very serious if Mr. Pedler makes a similar attempt to secure votes in the ensuing meeting. If all the official members are not allowed to express their opinions independently, the Commission's report ought not to be presented to the Senate for consideration and opinion. It is hoped, however, that Mr. Pedler will forbear from any such interference in the matter. In the opinion of the writer both he and Mr. Raleigh should remain away from the meeting and thereby give the greatest possible freedom to those who will engage in the discussion.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 12th, 1903.

25. A correspondent writes as follows in the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 13th February:—

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Feb. 13th, 1903.

A grievance in connection with text-books.

To people of small means with a number of boys to educate, frequent changes of text-books as well as alterations in successive editions of the same text-book have become a positive grievance. Formerly text-books were but seldom changed, and were not altered in successive editions, so that books read by the father were read in due course by the son. But now a book read by an elder brother is of no use whatever to a younger brother.

This unsatisfactory state of things may be done away with by the authors and the educational authorities attending to a few plain things:—

(1) No existing text-book should be changed unless indeed a book of really superior merit appears, and no weight should be attached to the consideration—“Why should a small number of authors only enrich themselves and why should not other writers too get something?” It is to be hoped that this point should be carefully attended to now that the new scheme of education has been given effect to.

(2) Authors should make the mental improvement of their juvenile readers, and not pecuniary gain, their main object in book-writing and should not hastily publish books, leaving mistakes to be rectified in future editions.

(3) The paper and printing of text-books need not be of a very superfine character and the binding need not be of paste-board. All that is required is that a text-book should be got up fairly well. An ordinary book consisting of eight 8vo or 12mo demy forms, printed on 16lb. Titagar paper, costs only 3 pice per copy, including binding, if an edition of 5,000 be printed. This, with book-sellers' commission at 5 per cent., makes 4 pice in all. This *plus* a reasonable amount of remuneration and no more should be the price of a text-book. Guardians will not grudge authors a comparatively high rate of remuneration if text-books are not so frequently changed or their contents are not so frequently altered as at present, so that really good writers will have a decent income and sufficient inducement to write good text-books.

26. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 14th February says that so long Government had remained satisfied with introducing the new scheme of vernacular education in the vernacular schools and in the lower classes of such

BASUMATI,
Feb. 14th, 1903.

A circular of the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division.

high schools as were supported by itself or received aid either from itself or from any local public body. It was known, however, that both the Government of India and the Government of Bengal would like very much to see the

scheme introduced in other high schools also. In writing about purely private high schools, the Lieutenant-Governor hoped that the heads of all such institutions would co-operate with the Government and help it in its laudable object by working heartily towards the same end. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, did not desire to go further than this in regard to such schools.

But though the Lieutenant-Governor said only this much, everybody knew that Government was secretly devising means for enforcing its scheme in private schools, that it was with the object of exercising its control over such schools that Government was anxious to bring the University itself under its thumb, and that so long as this object was not gained, it did not wish to issue to private schools an order which would look like a declaration of its intention to exercise uncontrolled power over them. From the resolutions of the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, it was also understood that Government would not, for the present, make the award of junior scholarships a means of compelling the obedience of private schools, and that it would not use such *zulm* or discourtesy in matters educational.

But all this expectation has been disappointed. The Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, wants to compel the heads of all private and collegiate schools in his jurisdiction to introduce the scheme of vernacular education in their institutions. In a confidential circular, which is practically an order, the Inspector has told the heads of such schools that if they did not introduce the new scheme of vernacular education in all classes from the fifth downwards, they would be deprived of the benefit of the Government junior scholarships.

Why did a common Inspector of Schools show discourtesy not a trace of which can be found in the resolution of the Government? Why were such presumption and insolence shown to institutions over which Government has no sort of control, and which, but for the junior scholarships, have no pecuniary connection with the Government?

The first question which may be asked in connection with the circular is—Why was it not issued direct by the Government over the signature of its Secretary?

The second question is—Why was it not issued at least by the Director of Public Instruction? Was it right of the Inspector, who has no access to colleges, not even to Government and aided colleges, to seek to exercise his power over private collegiate schools?

Thirdly, how will matters stand if the heads of all private schools combine to forego the benefit of the Government scholarships and refuse to carry out the Inspector's order? Will it then be sought to disaffiliate all such institutions?

Fourthly, what led the Inspector to behave so discourteously towards private schools, when Government itself was endeavouring to secure their co-operation by mild and polite methods?

Fifthly, was it good policy to compel the heads of such institutions to become disaffected, when the object of Government could have been easily gained by kind treatment?

Sixthly, why had the public to see in the circular of an Inspector that very *zulm*, *zubberdust* and high-handedness which Government itself hesitated to exhibit in its resolutions, and an exhibition of which in its report by the Universities Commission called forth unanimous protest in India and annoyed even the English public?

Seventhly, why was the circular issued as confidential?

Eighthly, why did not all private schools protest against the circular?

It is probable that the Inspectors of the other Divisions have issued similar circulars. If so, the blame of issuing them rests with the Director of Public Instruction. Why, it may be asked, did he not himself issue them? When even lists of text-books, including the names of small alphabet books, are now published in the official *Gazette* over the signature of the Secretary to Government, why was such an important circular as this issued by the Inspectors?

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

27. A correspondent of the *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 3rd February complains of the loss which buyers at the Purulia Municipal market sustain in consequence of the sellers not using standard weights and measures.

MANBHUM,
Feb. 3rd, 1903.

A Municipal complaint from Purulia.

This ought to be checked.

There is a wholesome rule prohibiting a seller in the market from selling to a shop-keeper an article for which there is a demand among the ordinary buyers. But the rule is not strictly enforced by the Municipal overseers of the market.

28. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th February complains of insufficient supply of filtered water in Calcutta and says that for the last three years the taps in the first floors of houses have not been giving water. Rate-

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 12th, 1903.

Insufficient water-supply in Calcutta.

payers are consequently obliged to engage servants to carry water to the first floor. The pecuniary loss thus suffered by them can, it is believed, be realised from the Calcutta Municipality by moving the Courts against it. Quite recently there was absolutely no supply of water for three successive days in Ward No. I. The writer has been informed that Dr. R. G. Kar will sue the Municipality for this.

29. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 13th February says that the Berhampore Municipality in the Murshidabad district has always been open to the charge of not being able to make both ends meet; and it has therefore gone on increasing taxation all round, without making any endeavour to curtail expenditure. The Berhampore Municipality should follow the example of some neighbouring municipalities, which, though pressed for money like itself, have yet managed to make both ends meet without increasing taxation. It is the highly-paid posts under it to which the Municipality should direct its attention in a scheme of retrenchment. Rate-payers' money should not be misspent in any way, nor should private influence prevent the Municipality from making retrenchments that appear necessary in their interest.

PRATIHAR,
Feb. 13th, 1903.

The Berhampore Municipality in the Murshidabad district.

30. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 14th February writes as follows:—
It is useless to write about the Calcutta Municipality. From a glance at the northern quarter of the town one would be led to think that either the Municipality has become deaf and blind or the northern quarter of the town has been detached from its jurisdiction. The water-supply in the northern quarter is insufficient and its streets are never properly cleaned. On Saturday last the water-supply was suddenly stopped and the residents knew not what to do. Everybody is not possessed of means to have all the water required for domestic purposes fetched from the river by water carriers. There are many who employ no servants, and their women, although *parda-nishin* ladies, had no choice but to go to the river to fetch water. The unfiltered water hydrants also were, in this emergency, called into requisition by most people. On the Sunday and Monday following the supply was extremely scanty. Are these the comforts the Municipality is providing for its rate-payers? Why does not the Municipality ask the poorer rate-payers to quit the town at once?

BASUMATI,
Feb. 14th, 1903.

The Municipal grievances of the northern quarter of Calcutta.

Again, from the conservancy arrangements prevailing in this quarter, one would doubt if conservancy was among the duties of the Municipality. All broad streets are swept and cleaned twice every day, but the narrow lanes in Ward No. I, are never looked after. The lanes called Radha Madhav Goswami's Lane and Ram Kanta Bose's Street in that ward have become simply impassable, as they are cleaned every two or three days and the Police takes no notice of those who ease themselves on the streets.

There is no one to look to the grievances of the residents of the northern quarter, though their rates are, all the same, most strictly realised.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

31. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 11th February has been taken by surprise by the memorial of the residents of Ula, Barasat, &c., who requests Government to take the proposed Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway line

PALLIVASI,
Feb. 11th, 1903.

The proposed Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway.

by those villages and not through a flourishing town like Santipur, on the ground that the latter route would be longer than the former. The taking of the line by Santipur will benefit not only the people of that place but also the residents of Kalna, Guptipara, and several other places on the other side of the Hooghly.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 13th, 1903.

32. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th February has received two complaints of theft of goods transmitted by rail. One of the complaints has been addressed by Beni Dafadar,

Railway complaints.

who says that the bags of fish which arrive for him at Naihati from Monghyr every day are frequently found to have been tampered with and robbed of part of their contents. In this way he lost one and-a-half maunds of fish in four days in January last. The matter was brought to the notice of the railway authorities, but no reply was vouchsafed to his representation.

The other complaint comes from Hari Pada Dua of Purulia, who says that the boxes of lac which he sends to Howrah by rail are always found at Howrah to have lost in weight. He lost in this way some three or four hundred rupees within the last three or four months. The matter has been represented to the railway authorities.

The railway authorities can surely form an idea of the hardship which such theft of goods on railways causes to the public. And as the steps they have up to this time adopted to check it have not produced satisfactory results, more energetic measures ought to be taken.

The corruption of railway employes has also become a source of great trouble to the public. On the Katihar section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway the bills of *thikadars* are never passed until some illegal gratification has been paid to the clerks. A *thikadar* of Moghalhat, named Sher Ali Khan, writes to say that unless something is paid to the clerks, the bills are not passed even for so long a period as six months, on the plea of pressure of business, but are readily passed as soon as something is paid to the clerks. In many places, again, passengers and consigners of goods have to pay illegal gratification to get tickets and to book luggage or goods.

NIHAR,
Feb. 17th, 1903.

33. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 17th February complains of the want of a waiting room for females in the Contai Road station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The want

A railway grievance.

is keenly felt by the large number of respectable passengers which the station commands every day. The railway authorities are requested to remove this want.

(h)—General.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 11th, 1903.

34. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 11th February says that the Bombay High Court recently decided that the excise law did not apply

The cocaine mischief.

to cocaine, because cocaine cannot be brought within the category of intoxicants as defined in the law. It is, however, a well-known fact that the unrestricted sale of cocaine is doing immense harm to the country. Will not Government do something to prevent the evil?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,

35. The same paper does not know what serious objections, as Mr. Macpherson was pleased to say in reply to the Hon'ble Babu Chaturbhuj Sahay's interpellation in the Bengal Legislative Council, there can be to Sub-Deputy Collectors appearing at the Deputy

Sub-Deputy Collectors in the Deputy Magistrateship examination.

Magistrateship examination.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 12th, 1903.

36. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th February has seen in the last annual report of the Indian Tea Association a statement to the effect that in the opinion of Mr. Fuller, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, a

Mr. Fuller's opinion about the Assam cooly.

stricter enforcement of caste rules would make the Assam tea-gardens very attractive to coolies. But who has told Mr. Fuller that coolies avoid the tea-gardens for fear of losing caste? It is only the stories of oppressions committed against tea-garden coolies which make them dread the very name of Assam. If Mr. Fuller can prevent the commission of these oppressions and abolish the law which practically makes slaves of tea-garden coolies, we are sure the tea-gardens will never want for coolies.

37. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th February

An objectionable distillery in the Hooghly district.

strongly condemns the action of the authorities in allowing a distillery to be opened at Chautara near Kaikala in the Hooghly district, where none was wanted. The authorities turned a deaf ear to the prayers of the villagers for the repair of the metalled road in Kaikala and for exemption from the chaukidari tax, but they have issued a license for a distillery which is calculated to ruin them!

The distillery, which has been opened near the *dighi* or large tank, is already producing the anticipated results. The other day a drunken man was seen lying in an unconscious state, and the day following another man all the worse for drinking was found filthily abusing a respectable woman.

It is hoped the authorities will cause the distillery to be abolished.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 13th, 1903.

38. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 14th February complains that the

A grievance of passed fourth grade accountants.

successful candidates in the fourth grade account-antship examination—an examination requiring a thorough knowledge of arithmetic, mensuration, and mercantile book-keeping, and in which few succeed in the first attempt—obtain only a small number of posts in the offices for which they are eligible, the majority of the posts in those offices being given to the relations and acquaintances of the European or native heads of the offices. The Public Works and Telegraph Department, the Railway offices, the Municipal and District Board offices, these are the offices for which these candidates are eligible, as being offices which require the services of the largest number of accountants. But of the officers in each branch in the Public Works Department, only two are recruited from among the successful candidates in the above examination and the percentage of such successful candidates is not greater in any of the other offices mentioned above. This grievance of the passed accountants may be redressed by making a rule to the effect that a passed accountant shall have a prior and preferential claim to all vacancies in their offices carrying a salary of 30 to 35 rupees.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 14th, 1903.

III.—LEGISLATION.

39. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 11th February says that it is out of

The Probate and Administration Bill.

kindness to poor widows and minor children that the Government of India has introduced into the Supreme Legislative Council a Bill for amending the law relating to probate and letters of administration, the object of the Bill being to make probates and letters of administration granted by any District Judge's Court operative throughout India. This is good. But, cannot the Government of India, which feels so much pity for the poor, see its way to exempt poor people from the probate duty, which causes them no small amount of hardship? When no money is left by a deceased person, his poor heirs have to raise money by loan in order to pay the duty, and thereby not infrequently heavily encumber the little property to which they succeed.

PALLIVASI,
Feb. 11th, 1903.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th February writes as follows:—

Holkar's abdication.

We shall try to explain our reasons for concluding that the deposed Maharaja Holkar was not a wrong-headed or tyrannical ruler and that abdication such as his is only another name for deposition. It is for every thoughtful person to judge whether this abdication is a sign of fickleness or a proof of intense mortification. As the English Government is the Paramount Power in this country, it behoves it to respect the feelings of the native Princes; the conversion of those Princes, by force or stratagem, into so many puppets would by no means enhance its prestige.

We would not have been so much pained at the deposition of Holkar, if he had rendered himself unpopular with his subjects by his conduct; if, for the purpose of living voluptuously, he had squandered the treasures of the State; if, in disregard of the welfare of his subjects, he had gone on increasing wastefulness. But what do we see in the present deposition? We see

HITAVADI,
Feb. 13th, 1903.

an able native Prince renouncing the pleasures of sovereignty in the prime of his life, vesting his infant son in a non-regardful manner with the sovereignty of his State and leaving its administration in the hands of obnoxious interlopers from another province. Is not this something unnatural? Has any one ever seen anything like this?

The *Pioneer* is circulating a false report to the effect that it was Holkar himself who besought the English Government not to accept his letter of abdication till the Delhi Darbar was over, while the fact is that it was the Secretary of State who forbade the Government of India to accept the abdication till that time. Why this delay in accepting this abdication, if Government had no misgivings as to the fairness of its conduct in the matter? The abdication was not accepted, lest the festivities of the Darbar should be tinged with sadness, and lest the real truth should come out in the course of conversation among the assembled Princes.

The influence of interlopers is not relished anywhere. Thanks to the Resident, several inhabitants of Delhi are now in occupation of the highest posts in the Indore State. These obnoxious men were appointed and vested with authority against Holkar's wish. How shall we then believe that it was of his own accord that Holkar left the charge of his infant son as well as of his State in the hands of these obnoxious foreigners? Holkar has signalled himself by his attention to the health, education and protection of person and property of his subjects, and by his zeal in works of public utility and the commercial and industrial improvement of his State. It is not we that say this. Government itself has many times praised Holkar for these things. Only in 1891 Lord Lansdowne spoke as follows at Indore on the occasion of a visit to that place:—

"His Highness is responsible for the welfare of a million of human beings, and I have no doubt that the task of governing them and providing for their requirements is not without its irksome responsibilities. I am glad, however, to learn that His Highness takes a personal interest in public affairs, and I have heard with especial satisfaction of the zeal which he has shewn in promoting the cause of education amongst his subjects. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing something of the school and colleges which have been established here, either by the State or under its direct encouragement. His Highness's thorough knowledge of the English language, of which he has given us a striking proof this evening, shows that he has himself not neglected the education which he received at Indore College as a youth. I am also glad to know that His Highness has done much for the medical care for his people, and that a large free Hospital has recently been opened in the city at the expense of the State, a boon for which I feel no doubt they will be grateful. I wish also to take this opportunity of congratulating His Highness upon the successful measures which he has taken since I have been in India for the suppression of dacoity, and for the disposal of some of the gangs, whose depredations were until lately a serious source of danger and a public scandal in this part of India. I can assure His Highness that it is the earnest desire of the Government of India to give him every possible encouragement, and that, so long as he is animated by the feelings which he has so well expressed in his speech this evening, he may count upon my cordial support and good will."

It is clear from these words of Lord Lansdowne that Holkar is not a worthless or incompetent ruler. It is very painful for an accomplished Prince like him to comply with every wish of the English Resident. Seeing all this he has thought fit to abdicate, lest he should be insulted and disgraced. Why else should he abdicate in the prime of his life?

In no act of his has the Holkar shown any sign of inefficiency. Who will believe that a descendant of Ahalya Bai has become incapable of administering his State at the early age of 42? The high-pitched tone in which Lord Lansdowne lauded him precludes all supposition of incapacity in so short a time. We cannot therefore help concluding that this abdication of his is not a voluntary act and that he has been forced to abdicate. He has had to do the bidding of his masters.

In fact, the fate of the native Princes now completely depends upon the Residents, for a native Prince, placed under the supervision of a Resident who

is greedy, partial, or fond of power, may be found incompetent in a moment. That is why the condition of those Princes is becoming more and more miserable. We shall have much to say on this subject again.

41. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 14th February quotes the following from the speech of Mr. Bayley, Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, made at the recent Indore Darbar:—

BASUMATI,
Feb. 14th, 1903.

The new administration of
Indore.

"The rights and privileges of the State will be carefully maintained. The administration will, under the orders of the Government of India, be vested in the Minister and State Council, which will be reconstituted as the Council of Regency. The members of the Council will be appointed for three years, powers being reserved to the Agent to the Governor-General, acting upon the recommendation of the Resident, to extend their term for the same or any shorter period. The Minister, who will, in case of a vacancy occurring, be appointed by the Government of India, will exercise a general control over all departments of the administration. He will ordinarily preside at meetings of the Council, but it will rest with the Resident to attend and preside whenever he thinks it expedient, and he will invariably do so when certain important subjects come up for decision. The duties thus devolving on the Council of Regency are of a very important and responsible character, and the Government of India rely on its members and on all officials of the State working in subordination to them to prove by loyal, devoted and honest service that they are worthy of their trust."

It will be seen from the above, says the writer, how the Indore State will be administered during the minority of the present Holkar. It is true a Council of Regency will be formed with some able officers, but will it have any independence? It is needless to point out that the members' tenure of office will depend on the wish of the Resident. As for the Minister it is not clear from the above speech what his term of office will be. There appears no hard-and-fast rule about him like the one which has been laid down in regard to the members of the Council. The Minister will be the President of the Council only in name, because, as Mr. Bayley says, "it will rest with the Resident to attend and preside whenever he thinks it expedient and he will invariably do so when certain important subjects come up for decision." How then will "the duties devolving on the Council of Regency be of a very important and responsible character?" So far as can be seen from what the Agent said, the whole responsibility for administering the State properly will rest with the Resident. It is true the administration will be carried on by the Council, but will the Council ever venture to say or do anything that is not approved by the Resident? The statement that was sometime ago made to the effect that the administration would be entrusted to natives has thus been shown to be true in appearance, but not in reality. Indore is one of the principal allied States, and there must be some treaty existing between it and the Government of India. It is hoped the announcements made by Mr. Bayley do not in any point militate against the conditions of such treaty. But if they do, the public have a right to know the reason of such violation of treaty terms. The writer fails to see if Mr. Bayley's speech would have been different if the English Government had deposed the Maharaja and placed his son on the throne. But from the speech that was made, it is learnt that both the appointment of members of the Council of Regency and the fixing of their term of office will rest with the Agent to the Governor-General; that the appointment of the Minister will rest with the Government of India; that the Resident will be the *de-facto* President of the Council, and that its members will have to guide themselves in accordance with the indications in his face. It will thus be seen that though the appearance of the administrative machinery has been changed, the machinery itself remains the same as before. It is to be hoped that the people of the State will now be happy and glad to see the little independence which they possessed eaten up by a wide Empire. Many of Lord Curzon's deeds will find a permanent place in history.

42. Referring to the Maharaja Holkar's abdication, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th February writes as follows:—
The *Pioneer* newspaper says, "at times it is

The ex-Maharaja Holkar.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 14th, 1903.

notorious that his caprice has been carried to lengths that made those about him doubtful of his sanity." It also says that many of his subjects have been glad at his abdication because he used to harass them, and that his abdication was voluntary. The *Mahratta* newspaper of Poona has, however, circulated quite a different story. It says that His Highness was dissatisfied with the arrangements which had been made by the Government of India for the administration of his State, and, in support of this contention, publishes a story to the effect that once when the Viceroy wished to see his capital he wrote to His Excellency that he was nobody to invite or not to invite him to his capital. No one has disproved the *Mahratta's* story; and the *ex-Maharaja* also said nothing to disprove it in the Darbar in which he abdicated his *gadi*. Although the *Pioneer* says that many of his subjects were dissatisfied with his rule, yet his last words of advice to his son show that he loved his subjects and sought the welfare of his State. There are also historians who have spoken highly of Sivaji Rao Holkar. Sir Roper Lethbridge says:—"His Highness is known as a Prince of great enlightenment and ability." He was also honoured by the Government with the title G.C.S.I., and we used to hear him only well spoken of. But he was proud of his descent from the great Malhar Rao. It was perhaps this which made him a discontented Prince.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BANKURA
DARPAN,
Feb. 16th, 1903.

43. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th February says that there is a total failure of crops in all but 20 to 25 *mauzas* in the Simlapal outpost, which contains in all 380 *mauzas*, so that only a two-anna crop will be obtained. The sufferings of the people know no bounds. The next harvest is yet far off, and there is no means of tiding over the present distress except by granting *tuccavi* loans and constructing a road or two in the way of relief works. The projected road from Simlapal to Vishnupur will afford employment to many and at the same time facilitate trade and traffic.

The construction of a road from Dubrajpur at the eastern extremity of Simlapal to Khatra, where the local *munsifi* is situate, will greatly facilitate communication between those two places. This road should be undertaken in preference to one from Goaldangra to Khatra, which is said to be under consideration, but which will promote the convenience of only the residents of Goaldangra and some adjacent villages. A road from Dubrajpur to the Ganakbandi railway station will also prove of great convenience.

The editor, in drawing the attention of the authorities to the correspondent's letter, says that severe distress prevails in Simlapal as well as Khatra and Raipur, and strongly approves of the correspondent's recommendation about the construction of a road from Dubrajpur to Khatra.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 6th, 1903.

44. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th February writes as follows:—

Mr. Wheeler's history of the Delhi Darbar of 1877. Mr. Wheeler has been appointed to write the history of the Delhi Darbar. We therefore think it necessary to say something about what the same historian wrote in defence of the Darbar of 1877. According to him, Darbars are not new things in this country, having been held several times before, but the ceremonies did not in past times prove quite agreeable to zamindars, because an Emperor then holding a Darbar usually made an exhibition of pride and insolence, and employed even subject Princes to do menial duties. These Darbars, says Mr. Wheeler, not unoften led to quarrels and wars, and drained away large sums of money from the Princes in the shape of costly presents, for which the only return they received was a handkerchief or a title.

After describing the ancient Darbars in this way, Mr. Wheeler remarks that the Darbars held by the English are free from such defects, that in the English Darbars native chiefs have no fear of being dishonoured by being appointed gate-keepers like Prithvi Raj, or being employed as the sovereign's body-guard.

This comparison excites laughter. To all who know Indian history Mr. Wheeler will appear childish. The Hindu and Musalman Emperors of India were not so polite or affable as the English, but that is not a reason for condemning their Darbars and methods of administration. Their arrogant behaviour in their Darbars did no practical harm to their subjects. Though of scant courtesy, the Hindu and Musalman Emperors never robbed their subject Princes of their rights and powers by underhand means thereby reducing them to mere puppets. Nor were the masses so completely deprived of their privilege of using arms as they are now, or reduced to so lifeless a condition as they are in under English rule. Internal wars and similar disturbances of the country's peace have, it is true, become impossible under British rule. But who shall deny that while British rule has conferred this blessing on the country, it has, at the same time, deprived the people of all opportunities for advancement and for the development of their powers? In recounting the merits of the English Darbars, Mr. Wheeler ought to have remembered that as a mighty tree, though giving shade to wayfarers, stunts the growth of all vegetation near it, so British rule, though it has secured peace to the people of India, has, at the same time, proved unfavourable to the development of their capacities. In this connection, we cannot help quoting the following from Burke's speech on the East India Bill:—"The Tartar invasion was mischievous, but it is our *protection that destroys India*, it was their enmity, but it is our friendship." Does not Mr. Wheeler know that Mr. Meredith Townsend has expressed a similar opinion in his book *Asia and Europe*? Mr. Townsend says that it is not easy to make an average Englishman understand how happy the Indian was before the advent of the English; how wide was the field of activity before those Indians who possessed genius and ambition, for nothing except the Emperor's throne was unattainable by a Hindu even under Musalman rule; how a brigand like Sivaji succeeded in establishing a powerful dominion; how a common cowherd, a common soldier, and a common officer in the Moghul Empire each succeeded in establishing prosperous kingdoms in Baroda, Mysore, and Hyderabad, respectively; how also Ranjit Sing's father, another insignificant man, succeeded in doing a similar thing; how hundreds of Indians became rulers of provinces and thousands were able to commit hostilities against them, and how in these small States thousands of the people themselves carried on the administration and even made conquests. All these avenues to preferment, says Mr. Townsend, have been closed to the Indians under British rule, which has failed to give them anything in return for the loss of all their old happiness and prosperity. Does Mr. Wheeler mean to say that mere politeness and courtesy have compensated the people of India for the loss they have sustained?

The truth is that, however polite and courteous the British Government may be, its treatment of the native Princes is not free from deceit.

As for the giving of presents to the sovereign, the present practice is not different from the old. Mr. Wheeler cannot say that the native Princes have not now to spend large sums of money in presents in order to secure the favour of the Government. It was only the other day that the Maharaja of Jaipur, while in England, made a present of a costly sword to the Emperor. And was not his present of a bejewelled cup to the Empress made with the object of pleasing the rulers? Why, again, did a native Prince of India make a gift of a lakh of rupees to a London Hospital, and the Maharaja Scindia incur an expenditure of twenty lakhs in providing a hospital ship for the China expedition? Have these two Princes got enough hospitals for their own people in their respective States? Could not these twenty-one lakhs have been devoted to the securing of some useful object in the Native States? Have their subjects no pressing wants to remove? If they have, why did the Princes, instead of removing their wants, empty their treasuries to please their sovereign? Had native Princes to make costlier presents to the Moghul Emperors? On the other side, the returns which they now receive are not even a hundredth part in value of those they used to receive from the Moghul Emperors. Most native Princes, for instance, gained their present position through the favour or negligence of those Emperors. But has anybody ever heard of a native of India acquiring territory under British rule? Has the polite and courteous British Government ever appointed any native

to a provincial governorship like the Moghuls? If none of these things have happened under British rule, is it not ridiculous to compare ancient with modern Darbars?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 11th, 1903.

45. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 11th February writes as follows:—

The Viceroy insulted in the
Delhi Darbar.

Everyone, from the King-Emperor to the commonest Englishman in the street, should be grateful to Lord Curzon for the success of the Delhi Darbar, because no one else could have made it as successful in their sight.

But what did we see in that Darbar? We saw Lord Curzon insulted and humiliated.

Q.—Who insulted him?

A.—Those of his countrymen who are high in position.

Q.—Insulted him?

A.—Yes, through a regiment of common soldiers.

Q.—Which regiment?

A.—The Ninth Lancers—the regiment which had been punished by him for not giving the names of some murderers.

What lesson have we derived from this? We have learnt that in India not only has the executive become master of the judiciary, but that animalism is daily acquiring more and more strength—the military is becoming more and more powerful every day.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 12th, 1903.

46. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 12th February writes as follows:—

The proposed application of Mr.
Phipps' grant.

Convinced of the deep poverty that lies concealed under the mass of rich jewels that is to be seen in India, Mr. Phipps has placed in the hands of Lord Curzon a sum of three lakhs of rupees for a work of permanent benefit to India. And how does Lord Curzon propose to apply this sum? To the founding of an institute at Dehra Dun for the prosecution of agricultural researches and of an institute at some place not yet fixed upon, for experiments in the cure of hydrophobia, as if Indians were on the point of being exterminated by the bites of rabid dogs! His Lordship says that the great majority of Indians depend for their subsistence upon agriculture, and he is right. But who would be the better for an agricultural institute founded in a place so remote and out of the way as Dehra Dun? The discoveries of the one or two savants who will prosecute their researches there will lie buried in their own minds or in Government reports. But Indians would have been really benefited if the agricultural class at Sibpur or the agricultural school at Saidapat had been converted into a first class agricultural college with the help of Mr. Phipps' grant.

The poverty of India will never be removed without a knowledge of manufactures, for without such knowledge her vast hidden mineral and agricultural wealth will be of no use to her. If Government had taught Indians a knowledge of manufacture, they would have taken a foremost place among the nations of the world. But it is a matter of great regret that Government is thoroughly inattentive to the matter. Government is doing nothing itself in this direction; nor does it feel it to be its duty to help others who are bestirring themselves in the matter. Government could have established an excellent technical institute by adding a grant of 70 lakhs to the grant of 30 lakhs made by Mr. Tata. The addition of even this grant of three lakhs made by Mr. Phipps to the Tata fund would have done much good. The imparting of a knowledge of practical science in his Science Association has been a long cherished project with Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, a project which he has been prevented from carrying into effect for want of funds. If Lord Curzon had placed this sum of three lakhs in the hands of Dr. Sircar, he could have, with its help, made permanent arrangements for the training of Indian youths in practical science.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 13th, 1903.

47. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th February writes as follows:—

The *Pioneer* on the Bengali
Babu.

It is no wonder that the *Pioneer*, that sincere friend of the Bengalis, should, in writing of the Bengali Babu, indulge in such rhetoric as the following:—"Bengal, a dark ocean of purulent humanity on whose surface

floats that dubious product of British education the Bengali Babu." The Bengali Babu has ever been an object of ridicule. He has survived the banter and sarcasm of the Andrews, Pedros, Gomezes, and DeSouzas of the country, and still stands as a rival of the European and the Eurasian. Even now there is no paucity of good orators, good writers, and good scholars among the Bengali Babus. How many are there among the Europeans and Eurasians in this country who have achieved greater success in the world than the Bengalis? Not to speak of Dr. Rajendra Lala Mitra and men like Ram Gopal Ghosh, Harish Chandra Mukherji, Kristo Das Pal, and Keshav Chandra Sen, how many persons belonging to the Anglo-Indian and Eurasian community could be named by the *Pioneer* as being anything like the equals of even some of the living Bengali Babus? There would be some show of justification for this sneering allusion to the Babu as "the dubious product of British education," if one could name at least a couple of Anglo-Indians and Eurasians equal, in point of ability, to men like Professors Jagadish Chandra Basu, Prafulla Chandra Rai, and N. N. Ghosh, and Babus Narendra Nath Sen and Surendra Nath Banerji. Until one can do that, nobody will take the slightest notice of the dog on the ash-heap baying at the moon.

48. The same paper has the following:—

"King and Emperor."

Edward VII, the Emperor of India, is our Emperor, while he is the King of the people of England and the English colonies. That is why, on the occasion of the late illumination held in Calcutta, two different prayers, though expressive of one and the same feeling of loyalty, were offered up by the two different communities in this country, the Indians exclaiming "Long live our Emperor" and the Anglo-Indians "Long live our King." Many people probably know why in one and the same empire the same sovereign should be called by two such different titles.

When the late Empress Victoria first assumed the Government of this country from the hands of the East India Company, she became known in India simply and in the usual way as Queen Victoria and continued to be known as such for nearly a quarter of a century, even after the acquisition of her Indian dominions. It was at a later period and during the administration of Lord Lytton, that adept in statesmanship, that she assumed the title of Empress, which now began to be inscribed on all Indian coins. As Edward VII has inherited all his late mother's titles, he is called the Emperor of India and the title is inscribed on all Indian coins, the inscription on English coins being "King Edward VII."

It was in pursuance and for the accomplishment of the same object that Government held the Imperial Assemblage of 1877 and had the title of Empress conferred on the late Queen. King or Queen means only a ruler governing in accordance with the existing and established laws and regulations of the country. Without the possession of absolute power, no King or Queen can become an Emperor or Empress, and a King or Queen, however great and powerful he or she may be, is bound to act in conformity with the law. But the mere pleasure of an Emperor or Empress is regarded as law. This is why in 1877 when drawn into the conjuring net that had been spread for them by that astute Viceroy, Lord Lytton, the foolish native Princes of India assembled at Delhi and greeted the Queen as Empress of India, he informed Her Majesty that—

"It signifies in the original the power of issuing absolute orders which must be obeyed. It is a word which the Princes of India had hitherto been careful to avoid using." There were warm debates and discussions in Parliament when the proposal was first made in it to invest the Queen with this title which implies the possession of absolute power. That the question was at all raised in Parliament was because the Sovereign was not entitled to assume the new title without its sanction. The motion was strongly opposed by Mr. Lowe who said that the conferring of the proposed title on the Queen would mean the conferring on her of the right to govern India in a despotic manner or by brute force, a system of administration for the Indians, which, as distinct and different from the constitutional government obtaining in England, could never be just or equitable. It was also pointed out by the same speaker that though it was true that English sovereigns had at one time

HITAVADI
Feb. 13th, 1903.

possessed the title, still, with the progress of knowledge and enlightenment among the people, it had come to be replaced by that of King or Queen. Sir George Campbell, too, was a strong opponent of the proposal and observed that when even in administering Indian affairs the Queen had to act in accordance with the orders and regulations issued by Parliament, it would be an idle mockery to confer on her the title of "Empress." Another member of Parliament, Sir Edward Colebrooke, took a prominent part in the protest made by the opposition. He had the sense to see that the principal object of the ministry in proposing the new title for the Queen was simply to acquire absolute powers in regard to the administration of India, and he was also troubled by a fear that any assumption of such excessive powers in regard to the administration of that country, under the pretext of the title, might produce discontent among the Indians and, as a result of such discontent, a rebellion among them. He therefore proposed that if the new title were assumed by the sovereign, care should be taken, by issuing a separate proclamation, to make it perfectly clear to the native Princes that its assumption would cause no change in the political status of the people of India. But all such protests were disregarded by the tortuous statesmanship of the ministry. That their chief object in proposing the new title was to reduce the authority of the Indian Princes is clearly proved by the foregoing extract from Lord Lytton's letter. But to silence the opposition they made the statement that as it was the fervent wish of the people of India that the Queen should assume the title, they found it necessary to invest her with it. When such debates and discussions over the matter were taking place in England, and when sincere statesmen who were troubled with the fear lest the measure should produce discontent among the Indians, were being misled and deceived by official advocates of tortuous policy, falsely justifying their case by appealing to the wishes of the Indians, the foolish Indians themselves lay profoundly asleep and had no knowledge whatever of the machinations that were being made against them.

On its second reading in Parliament, the Bill authorising the assumption of the new title by the Queen was vehemently opposed by Mr. Gladstone who said that that was the first time that an attempt was being made in England to assume a new title without acquiring new dominions; that no evidence had been placed before the House to show that the Indians desired the title; that the Queen was not, as a matter of fact, the Empress of All India, only certain provinces which had belonged to the East India Company having acknowledged her sway; that many Indian Princes were still independent rulers to all intents and purposes, while the British Government, powerful as it was, possessed little or no authority over them; and that therefore there was no knowing what under the circumstances the result was to be of any attempt to exercise paramount power over them such as would be implied by the proposed measure. It was further observed by Mr. Gladstone that he did not consider the reduction of the authority of the Indian Princes which would follow from the assumption of the title by the Queen to be consistent with good policy or beneficial to English interests. In his reply to Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Disraeli only said that there was no secret meaning in, or secret object to be served by, the proposed title which would mean nothing more than a Queen; that the proposal was made only to please the Indians who loved high sounding titles, and that the change of the royal title would make no change in the honours, ascendancy, and rights then enjoyed by the native Princes. But when another member of the House, Mr. Ernest Noel, not very willing to accept his assurances, asked that all the papers bearing on the case might be laid before Parliament he refused the prayer, saying that "these could not be produced, as they involved political considerations with reference to the title!" It was the same Mr. Disraeli who had said "there was no secret meaning in, or secret object to be served by, the proposed title" and who now said "there were political considerations involved with reference to the title." How tortuous is the course of statesmanship! How hard to find its meaning!

The fact is, with the aid of the Delhi Darbar and taking advantage of the ignorance of the Indian Princes, and under the pretext of investing the Queen with a new title, Lord Lytton fully and most adroitly accomplished the object which Lord Dalhousie had not succeeded in accomplishing by force and which,

in consequence of the sepoy mutiny, had to be kept long in abeyance. The authority and prestige of the Indian Princes captured in the net of Lord Lytton's wonderful duplicity, was offered up as the final sacrifice on the altar of the great *yagna* performed by that Viceroy at Delhi. Thanks to his wonderful magic, those that had so long been the allies of the English raj now owned themselves its vassals. Thus it was that the real object of the assumption of the title of Empress by the Queen was accomplished.

49. A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Magura in the Jessore district, says that it was at first proposed to spend not more than five to seven hundred rupees for the Coronation celebration in that place, but, as subscriptions began to come in, it was decided to spend a thousand and-a-half.

The Coronation celebration money in Magura in the Jessore district.

The panchayets who collected the subscriptions granted no receipts for the same, and the correspondent has not yet heard of their having rendered to anybody an account of their collections.

The correspondent also fails to see why the Coronation Committee was at all formed. The Committee was not consulted in the matter of expenditure, nor did it hold a single sitting. Who then is to be held accountable for the way the money collected has been spent?

50. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 13th February says that Lord Curzon has earned the gratitude of the public by establishing the Imperial Library. But the writer regrets the loss which Lord Metcalfe's memory will suffer in consequence of the Library being given a new name. The name Metcalfe-Curzon Library would have suited it better as commemorating both its founder and its reformer.

The Imperial Library.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 13th, 1903.

51. The *Bangarasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th February is alarmed to hear that a commission composed of the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police at Puri will soon meet in Puri town to enquire into the mauagement of the Jagannath temple in order to ascertain whether the management should be placed in the hands of a committee. This rumour has agitated the entire Hindu community. May it be false!

The management of the Puri temple.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 14th, 1903.

52. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th February advises the Midnapore Landholders' Association, which has set to itself the duty of improving agriculture in the district, to read all the papers connected with the model forms established by Government in wards' estates and khas mahals, and introduce in the zamindaris of its members the improved methods of cultivation which have proved successful in the former.

How to improve agriculture in the Midnapore district.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Feb. 16th, 1903.

The Association should try to introduce cabbage cultivation, which has proved so lucrative to the cultivators of Ghatal, in all parts of the district suited to it. The introduction of the cultivation of date-trees is also calculated to prove very profitable to the Midnapore people.

URIYA PAPERS.

53. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 7th February states that fever prevails in Cuttack town.

Fever in Cuttack town.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Feb. 7th, 1903.

54. The same paper regrets that the portion of the Kathjuri, in front of the Collector's office and which is the source of the main water-supply of the town, is being polluted every day by washermen who wash clothes without restraint. The writer requests the Municipality to take early steps to prevent this mischief.

A Municipal complaint in Cuttack town.

UTKALDIPIKA.

55. All the Uriya papers are informed that His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught will succeed Lord Curzon as the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and they are all pleased to have a member of the royal family placed at the head of the administration in India.

A rumour about the Duke of Connaught's succeeding Lord Curzon in India.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.

56. The Puri correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 7th February regrets to state that the internal management of the Puri temple is not at all satisfactory, for the *Mahaprasad*, which is the only food of a large number of pilgrims, is only made available to the public at a very late hour.

UTKALDIPIKA.

57. The same paper is glad that a tiger, which had committed devastations in Haripur, Bisunpur, and Kujang was at last bagged by Bali Surkal of Mauza Kiada in Kujang. On measurement it was found to be 9 feet by 4 feet.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Jan. 28th, 1903.

58. The *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th January regrets to state that Juman Bibi of Kasba in the Balasore town died of jackal bite. Mad jackals have thus become the scourge of that town.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

59. The same paper gives a short account of the reception of the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj by his own people at Baripada on his return from the Delhi Darbar. The addresses that were presented to the Maharaja are published *in extenso* in the paper.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

60. Referring to the speech of Sir Andrew Fraser at Nagpur wherein he acknowledged the valuable services rendered by educated Indians, who served under him, the same paper says that he will prove a sympathetic governor, when he takes charge of Bengal.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

61. The same paper approves of the proceedings of the Cuttack Coronation Committee, in resolving to make over the balance of the funds in their hands for the construction of an eye infirmary in the Cuttack General Hospital and for the foundation of a public library in the Cuttack town.

ASSAM PAPERS.

SILCHAR,
Feb. 9th, 1903.

62. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 9th February is glad to notice that Mr. Fuller, Chief Commissioner of Assam, has addressed himself to curtailing the expenditure of the cooly depôts in Assam. There is no objection to the reductions made, except that the post of compounder or hospital assistant ought to have been maintained. This officer would have been able to do all clerical work in addition to his own duties.

Mr. Fuller should have provided the clerk of the Shillong depôt, who served Government ably and for a long time but whose services have now been dispensed with, with some suitable post elsewhere.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 21st February, 1903.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.